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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LITHERLAND

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. D. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S. (Lond.),  
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

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For the Year Ended December 31st, 1918.

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1919

# LITHERLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,

LITHERLAND,

*May, 1919.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit, in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board and the Memorandum dated November, 1912, my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary condition of the Urban District of Litherland for the year ended December 31st, 1918.

In this year's statistics the figure of 16,000 has been used for the estimated number of population.

The Birth-Rate of 24·00 per 1,000 gives again the lowest rate recorded. The average for the 10 years ended December, 1917, is 31·36.

The Lady Health Visitor—appointed by the County Council—has continued working throughout the year, and in my opinion, has done work of great value.

Respecting Infantile Mortality, permit me to particularly draw your attention to the fact that there were only 26 deaths under the age of 1 year, as compared with 51 deaths in 1917.

My anticipation of the establishment of a Child Welfare Centre in 1918 was not realised ; but premises have now been secured, and the work of adapting them is now in hand.

Infectious diseases, particularly scarlet fever and diphtheria, have been heavy during the year.

For a period, ranging from October 5th to December 7th, a severe outbreak of influenza raged, and caused the deaths of 45 of the civilian population, and 19 of the military population.

In the Housing Department great difficulty has been experienced in getting repairs to property done ; due to scarcity of labour and materials.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. D. WILLIAMS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITHERLAND.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1918.

The Urban District of Litherland is situated five miles from Liverpool in a northerly direction; bounded on the North and East by the Rural District of Sefton, on the South by the County Borough of Bootle, and on the West by the Urban District of Waterloo-with-Seaforth.

The Southerly and Westerly portion of the District is a densely populated area, whilst the Northerly and Easterly portion is of a residential character and agricultural land.

There are two Public Open Spaces, one at the junction of Linacre Road and Bridge Road in the West Ward, of an area of 1,120 square yards; the other is at the junction of Sefton Road and Field Lane, in the North Ward, of an area of 3 acres, 1½ roods, and is laid out as gardens, with two Bowling Greens, Recreation Ground and Gymnasium.

The Rateable Value of the District is £63,796; General District Rate, 2s. 9d.; Poor Rate, 6s. 2d. One penny in the £ yields, approximately, £228.

The Water Supply is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation Water Supply.

The Sewerage System is by water carriage, with an outfall discharge into the River Mersey.

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area, in acres                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 865     |
| Estimated Population                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16,000  |
| Number of Houses in District                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,253   |
| Number of Persons per House                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4.81    |
| Rateable Value                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £63,796 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000, living...              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24.00   |
| Death Rate per 1,000, corrected              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16.62   |
| Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67.70   |
| Total Deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1       |
| Epidemic Diarrhœa Mortality per 1,000 Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.60    |
| Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 living     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2.00    |
| Uncertified Deaths                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19      |

The Census Population of 1911 was 14,796.

### *Preceding Census Population.*

|      |     |     |       |  |      |     |     |        |
|------|-----|-----|-------|--|------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1881 | ... | ... | 2,426 |  | 1901 | ... | ... | 10,592 |
| 1891 | ... | ... | 4,441 |  | 1911 | ... | ... | 14,796 |



The "Natural Increase," that is, the excess of Births over Deaths, is 118, as compared with 179 in 1917; 243 in 1916; 230 in 1915; 245 in 1914 and 254 in 1913.

### BIRTHS.

The number of children born in the District during 1918 was 384; 199 males and 185 females.

The Birth Rate is 24·00 per 1,000 of an estimated population of 16,000.

*Table of Birth Rates.*

| Year.  | Rate per 1,000. |     |       | Year. | Rate per 1,000. |     |       |
|--|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 1918   | ...             | ... | 24·00 | 1912  | ...             | ... | 33·07 |
| 1917   | ...             | ... | 24·73 | 1911  | ...             | ... | 33·65 |
| 1916   | ...             | ... | 31·66 | 1910  | ...             | ... | 30·68 |
| 1915   | ...             | ... | 30·77 | 1909  | ...             | ... | 29·68 |
| 1914   | ...             | ... | 32·56 | 1908  | ...             | ... | 35·12 |
| 1913   | ...             | ... | 31·75 |       |                 |     |       |
| Mean rate for 10 years, 1908 to 1917               |                 |     |       | ...   | ...             | ... | 31·36 |
| Decrease on rate for 1918 as against rate for 1917 |                 |     |       | ...   | ...             | ... | 0·73  |
| Decrease on 10 years' average                      |                 |     |       | ...   | ...             | ... | 7·36  |

### DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during the year was 266, 123 males and 143 females, equal to a death rate of 16·62 per 1,000 of an estimated population of 16,000.

*Table of Death Rates.*

| Year.                                      | Rate per 1,000. |     |       | Year. | Rate per 1,000. |     |       |
|--|-----------------|-----|-------|-------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 1918                                       | ...             | ... | 16·62 | 1912  | ...             | ... | 12·08 |
| 1917                                       | ...             | ... | 15·51 | 1911  | ...             | ... | 16·21 |
| 1916                                       | ...             | ... | 15·55 | 1910  | ...             | ... | 11·87 |
| 1915                                       | ...             | ... | 16·05 | 1909  | ...             | ... | 12·74 |
| 1914                                       | ...             | ... | 17·25 | 1908  | ...             | ... | 14·62 |
| 1913                                       | ...             | ... | 15·87 |       |                 |     |       |
| Mean Death Rate for 10 years, 1908 to 1917 |                 |     |       | ...   | ...             | ... | 14·78 |

The Death Rate for Litherland residents registered in the District is 13·56.

There were 79 deaths of Litherland residents who died outside the District "included," and 30 deaths which were registered in the District "excluded" and transferred.

The age periods of the deaths were :—

| Year.     | Under<br>1 year. | 1 and<br>under<br>2 years. | 2 and<br>under<br>5 years. | 5 and<br>under<br>15 years. | 15 and<br>under<br>25 years. | 25 and<br>under<br>45 years. | 45 and<br>under<br>65 years. | 65 years<br>and<br>upwards. |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1918..... | 26               | 16                         | 19                         | 31                          | 27                           | 56                           | 50                           | 48                          |
| 1917..... | 51               | 14                         | 24                         | 11                          | 11                           | 31                           | 52                           | 36                          |
| 1916..... | 53               | 18                         | 17                         | 12                          | 9                            | 38                           | 44                           | 50                          |
| 1915..... | 66               | 14                         | 16                         | 15                          | 12                           | 33                           | 51                           | 44                          |
| 1914..... | 74               | 22                         | 22                         | 12                          | 10                           | 36                           | 59                           | 41                          |

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year 26 children died, who at the time of their deaths, had not reached the age of one year.

This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 67·70 per 1,000 Births.

*Table of Infantile Mortality.*

| Year.      | 1st<br>Quarter. | 2nd<br>Quarter. | 3rd<br>Quarter. | 4th<br>Quarter. | Total. | Death Rate<br>per 1,000 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 1918 ..... | 10              | 3               | 10              | 3               | 26     | 67                      |
| 1917 ..... | 16              | 13              | 10              | 12              | 51     | 133                     |
| 1916 ..... | 10              | 11              | 15              | 17              | 53     | 107                     |
| 1915 ..... | 12              | 10              | 19              | 25              | 66     | 137                     |
| 1914 ..... | 35              | 18              | 10              | 11              | 74     | 142                     |
| 1913 ..... | 22              | 15              | 16              | 22              | 75     | 147                     |
| 1912 ..... | 9               | 6               | 3               | 13              | 31     | 63                      |
| 1911 ..... | 13              | 14              | 25              | 23              | 75     | 150                     |
| 1910 ..... | 12              | 7               | 18              | 13              | 50     | 101                     |
| 1909 ..... | 7               | 14              | 12              | 12              | 45     | 115                     |

*Table of Zymotic Deaths.*

|                        | 1918. | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. | 1914. | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Smallpox ... ..        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..   | 1     | 3     | 4     | ...   | 2     | 1     | ...   | 1     | 2     | 1     |
| Diphtheria ... ..      | 1     | 3     | 6     | 5     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 1     | 2     | 2     |
| Measles ... ..         | 6     | 4     | 6     | 1     | 7     | 8     | 5     | 3     | 4     | 5     |
| Whooping Cough ... ..  | 1     | 8     | 2     | 3     | ...   | 15    | ...   | 8     | 7     | 2     |
| Enteric Fever ... ..   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | 1     | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Typhus ... ..          | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Puerperal Fever ... .. | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |

Diarrhœal Diseases caused 1 death, which was under the age of 1 year.

|                        | 1918. | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. | 1914. | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Zymotic Death Rate ... | 0·68  | 1·47  | 1·15  | 2·24  | 1·88  | 2·5   | 0·99  | 2·7   | 1·75  | 1·06  |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

112 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

|                       |     |     | Cases Notified. |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                       |     |     | 1918.           | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. | 1914. | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. |
| Smallpox              | ... | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 4     | ...   | ...   |
| Scarlet Fever         | ... | ... | 61              | 50    | 64    | 54    | 57    | 21    | 29    | 32    | 69    | 69    |
| Diphtheria            | ... | ... | 41              | 16    | 14    | 29    | 9     | 13    | 16    | 9     | 19    | 10    |
| Enteric Fever         | ... | ... | 1               | ...   | 2     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 2     | ...   | 4     | 5     |
| Continued Fever       | ... | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Typhus Fever          | ... | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   |
| Erysipelas            | ... | ... | 5               | ...   | 6     | 7     | 1     | 3     | ...   | 10    | 5     | 2     |
| Puerperal Fever       | ... | ... | 1               | 2     | ...   | 2     | 3     | 1     | 3     | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Poliomyelitis         | ... | ... | ...             | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever  | ... | ... | ...             | 2     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... | 3               | 3     | 7     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
|                       |     |     | 112             | 73    | 93    | 95    | 72    | 39    | 50    | 56    | 97    | 86    |

*Infectious Diseases.*

|                       |     |     | Cases removed to Hospital. |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                       |     |     | 1918.                      | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. | 1914. | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. |
| Smallpox              | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 4     | ...   | ...   |
| Scarlet Fever         | ... | ... | 38                         | 23    | 25    | 42    | 35    | 21    | 22    | 18    | 48    | 36    |
| Diphtheria            | ... | ... | 27                         | 15    | 13    | 22    | 5     | 13    | 8     | 9     | 11    | 6     |
| Enteric Fever         | ... | ... | 1                          | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | 2     | ...   | 6     | 3     |
| Continued Fever       | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Typhus Fever          | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   |
| Erysipelas            | ... | ... | 4                          | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 3     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Puerperal Fever       | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | 1     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Poliomyelitis         | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever  | ... | ... | ...                        | 2     | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... | ...                        | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
|                       |     |     | 70                         | 40    | 38    | 66    | 40    | 39    | 32    | 32    | 65    | 45    |

Table showing Notifications in each Quarter of the Year 1918.

|                       |     |     | 1st<br>Quarter. | 2nd<br>Quarter. | 3rd<br>Quarter. | 4th<br>Quarter. | Total. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Smallpox              | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...    |
| Scarlet Fever         | ... | ... | 18              | 12              | 11              | 20              | 61     |
| Diphtheria            | ... | ... | 19              | 6               | 8               | 8               | 41     |
| Enteric Fever         | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | 1               | ...             | 1      |
| Continued Fever       | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...    |
| Typhus Fever          | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...    |
| Erysipelas            | ... | ... | 2               | ...             | ...             | 3               | 5      |
| Puerperal Fever       | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | 1               | ...             | 1      |
| Poliomyelitis         | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...    |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever  | ... | ... | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...             | ...    |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... | ...             | 2               | 1               | ...             | 3      |



*Comparative Table of Quarterly Notifications.*

|             | 1st<br>Quarter. | 2nd<br>Quarter. | 3rd<br>Quarter. | 4th<br>Quarter. | Total. |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1918 ... .. | 39              | 20              | 22              | 31              | 112    |
| 1917 ... .. | 21              | 8               | 8               | 36              | 73     |
| 1916 ... .. | 14              | 16              | 19              | 44              | 93     |
| 1915 ... .. | 14              | 11              | 34              | 36              | 95     |
| 1914 ... .. | 13              | 16              | 23              | 20              | 72     |
| 1913 ... .. | 9               | 7               | 8               | 15              | 39     |
| 1912 ... .. | 12              | 10              | 20              | 8               | 50     |
| 1911 ... .. | 19              | 18              | 8               | 11              | 56     |
| 1910 ... .. | 29              | 23              | 25              | 20              | 97     |
| 1909 ... .. | 37              | 22              | 7               | 20              | 86     |

*German Measles.*

|                |     |     |       |       |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|
|                |     |     | 1918. | 1917. |
| Cases notified | ... | ... | 188   | 204   |
| Deaths         | ... | ... | 6     | 4     |
| Death Rate     | ... | ... | ·39   | ·26   |

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

There were 71 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 8 cases of other types of Tuberculosis notified.

|                       | 1918. | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. | 1914. | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cases Notified ... .. | 79    | 100   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   | ...   |
| Deaths ... ..         | 30    | 21    | 29    | 22    | 25    | 17    | 15    | 4     | 10    | 14    |
| Death Rate ... ..     | 2·00  | 1·41  | 1·85  | 1·40  | 1·56  | 1·06  | 0·99  | 0·27  | 0·62  | 0·87  |

**CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.**

Owing to an outbreak of Measles, Beach Road Council School, Boys', Girls', and Infants' Department were closed from the 29th April to the 12th May.

All Schools were closed from the 15th October to the 11th November, due to the epidemic of Influenza.

A Private School was closed from the 25th February to the 4th March, owing to the prevalence of Diphtheria.

**EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA.***Table showing Deaths from Influenza.*

| Week ended.        | Civilian Cases. | Military Cases. | Total. |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| October 5th .....  | 1               | 2               | 3      |
| „ 12th .....       | 3               | 4               | 7      |
| „ 19th .....       | 9               | 3               | 12     |
| „ 26th .....       | 11              | 2               | 13     |
| November 2nd ..... | 8               | 2               | 10     |
| „ 9th .....        | 7               | 2               | 9      |
| „ 16th .....       | 3               | ...             | 3      |
| „ 23rd .....       | 1               | ...             | 1      |
| „ 30th .....       | 1               | 2               | 3      |
| December 7th ..... | 1               | 2               | 3      |
|                    | 45              | 19              | 64     |

*Incidence of Deaths according to Age.*

| From                       | October. |     |     |     | November. |     |     |     |     | Dec. |
|----------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
|                            | 5        | 12  | 19  | 26  | 2         | 9   | 16  | 23  | 30  | 7    |
| Birth to 10 years .....    | 1        | 1   | 1   | 6   | 2         | 2   | ... | 1   | ... | ...  |
| 10 years to 20 years ..... | ...      | 1   | 4   | 3   | 2         | 2   | 1   | ... | ... | ...  |
| 20   "   " 30   " .....    | 2        | 4   | 3   | 1   | 3         | 1   | ... | ... | 2   | ...  |
| 30   "   " 40   " .....    | ...      | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2         | 3   | ... | ... | 1   | 3    |
| 40   "   " 50   " .....    | ...      | ... | 2   | 2   | 2         | ... | 1   | ... | ... | ...  |
| 50   "   " 60   " .....    | ...      | ... | ... | ... | ...       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...  |
| 60   "   " 70   " .....    | ...      | ... | ... | ... | ...       | ... | 1   | ... | ... | ...  |
| 70   "   " 80   " .....    | ...      | ... | 1   | ... | ...       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...  |

The work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department was carried out under difficulties, owing to tradesmen, property repairers and able bodied men being away on military service.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Bakehouses were inspected regularly, and found in satisfactory order.

**ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.**

The following matters were dealt with :—

|   |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| Drains repaired and obstructions removed  | ... | ... | 96 |
| Defective gullies ... ..                  | ... | ... | 11 |
| Defective water-closets ... ..            | ... | ... | 16 |
| Roofs to water-closets repaired           | ... | ... | 4  |
| Defective soil pipes ... ..               | ... | ... | 3  |
| Defective water supplies to water-closets | ... | ... | 30 |
| Delapidated ashbins ... ..                | ... | ... | 16 |
| Insanitary yard surfaces ... ..           | ... | ... | 12 |
| Defective sink waste-pipes ... ..         | ... | ... | 18 |
| Defective roofs to sculleries ... ..      | ... | ... | 4  |
| Dampness in bedrooms ... ..               | ... | ... | 26 |
| Defective eaves troughs ... ..            | ... | ... | 11 |
| Dangerous chimneys ... ..                 | ... | ... | 4  |
| Dangerous walls ... ..                    | ... | ... | 2  |
| Repairs to bedroom ceilings and walls     | ... | ... | 5  |
| Repairs to window sashes and frames       | ... | ... | 9  |
| Dryrot in floor boards ... ..             | ... | ... | 2  |
| Insanitary cellar ... ..                  | ... | ... | 1  |

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My thanks are due, and warmly accorded to the Members of the Council for considering advice given by me, and the several Members of the Health Department Staff for the assistance given to me in the discharging of the duties of Medical Officer of Health.

Your obedient Servant,

T. D. WILLIAMS,

*Medical Officer of Health*